

# ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE LEVEL SPECIAL EDUCATION - MILD/MODERATE CERTIFICATE

The Elementary and Middle Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate Certificate is valid for assignment as a teacher of students with mild/moderate disabilities ages 5 -13 or as a teacher of students with mild/moderate disabilities in who are in any class grades K - 8 in Rhode Island public schools.

## **Certification Requirements for full Rhode Island Certification<sup>1</sup>**

To be issued a certificate in Elementary and Middle Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate an applicant must satisfy all of the following:

- Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Completion of an approved program for the preparation of Elementary and Middle Level Special Education - Mild/Moderate Teacher
- Completion of 6 semester hours of Student Teaching in this area
- Demonstration of meeting the Professional Competencies of the Rhode Island Professional Teaching Standards (RIPTS)
- Demonstration of meeting the Content Competencies as prescribed by the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Other requirements:
  - Meet all Eligibility requirements for the Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education or Middle Grades stand Alone Certificate and met all Rhode Island assessment requirements for the applicable certificate area

## **Assessment Requirements**

**All applicants must meet the following Rhode Island assessment requirements:**

- Applicants must achieve a passing score of 160 on the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching - Grades K-6 (0622/5622) AND passing scores on the Praxis II Elementary Multiple Subjects (5031), which consists of: a passing score of 165 on the Reading and Language Arts Subtest Test (5032), a passing score of 164 on the Mathematics Subtest Test (5033), a passing score of 155 on the Social Science Subtest Test (5034), a passing score of 159 on the Science Subtest Test (5035) AND a passing score of 164 on the Praxis II Special Education: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (0543/5543).
- Applicants prepared in a program where the language of instruction was not English must achieve a passing score of 64 on the Versant Pro Speaking and Writing English assessments.

## **Current Routes to Certification**

Certification may be attained through the following routes:

- Completion of RI approved program from one of the following: Johnson & Wales University, Providence College, Rhode Island College, Salve Regina University, University of Rhode Island
- Reciprocity
- Transcript Analysis

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<sup>1</sup> Full Certification in Rhode Island means a multi-year certificate that demonstrates the educator has met all Rhode Island requirements for certification in the three-tier certification system (Initial, Professional, or Advanced certification). Full Certification does not include Preliminary Certifications which require educators to meet additional requirements to attain full certifications. Full certifications in Rhode Island are comparable to National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) stage three or higher certificates and are recognized by other states for certificate reciprocity.

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## **Reciprocity Requirements**

Reciprocity is recognition of preparation or certification in another state as comparable to Rhode Island. Applicants seeking certification through reciprocity must demonstrate that they meet all Rhode Island certification assessment requirements, hold the additional required certificate and meet all experience requirements when applicable. Applicants can attain certification by completing a state approved program for Educator Certification in a state other than Rhode Island within the last 5 years OR by demonstrating that they hold a currently valid full certificate in another state.

## **Transcript Analysis Requirements**

Applicants who have not completed an approved program or do not meet reciprocity requirements can be certified by Transcript Analysis until December 31, 2014. Beginning January 1, 2015 a Credential Review process will replace transcript analysis in areas for which there are no Rhode Island approved preparation programs.

- Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by transcript analysis by presenting evidence of the following:
  - Not less than 24 semester hours of coursework in each of the following areas:
    - Introduction to Education of Exceptional Students
    - Characteristics of Students with Special Needs
    - Behavior Management
    - Assessment of Students who have mild/moderate disabilities
    - Curriculum and Methodologies for students who have mild/moderate disabilities at the elementary and middle levels
    - Language and Speech Development
    - Collaboration, Home/School/Community
    - Teaching of Reading
  - Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
  - Meet all Eligibility requirements for the Early Childhood or Elementary Education or Middle Grades Stand Alone Certificate
  - Meet all Rhode Island assessment requirement(s) for this certificate area

The student teaching requirement may be waived for an applicant who has had two or more documented years of successful teaching experience in an approved special education elementary/middle setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years of teaching experience and who seek Special Education - Elementary/Middle level certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the special education - elementary/middle level. After completing the necessary course work for the Special Education- Elementary/Middle Level certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a Professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least three (3) years of teaching experience in the relevant area and at the appropriate grade level. Upon successful completion of the internship, the individual will be issued a five year professional certificate.